

ABSTRACT

The conventional method of limiting the number of receiving apparatus has a problem that if the limited number of appliances is reduced to limit distribution to unspecified appliances outside a home, distribution to appliances in the home is limited unnecessarily largely, and that if the limited number of appliances is increased, distribution to appliances outside the home cannot be sufficiently limited. At least one receiving apparatus, e.g., digital television sets and PCs, connected to a network and capable of receiving and using predetermined data, and a transmitting apparatus, e.g., an AV server for transmitting the data to the receiving apparatus via the network are provided. Use of the data on the network is managed on the basis of the transmission time required for transmission of predetermined information between the transmitting apparatus and the receiving apparatus.